

Salmon Creek Watershed

Mill Creek

The headwaters of Mill Creek are in the commercial areas on the west edge of the city of Battle Ground. Mill Creek flows through low hills west of Battle Ground, south through the Washington State University campus, and then into Salmon Creek. The area draining to Mill Creek is mainly rural suburban except for areas in the city of Battle Ground and around the WSU campus.

Mill Creek is in fair health, according to stream monitoring data on streambed insects, bacteria, and water quality collected near its confluence with Salmon Creek. Much of the creek channel lacks shade. Less than 20 percent of the drainage area is forested, an indication that stream health may continue to decline.

Management objectives for Mill Creek

- Requiring methods of development that minimize runoff
- Preserving existing trees and planting streamside trees
- Reforesting unused fields and pastures

Rock Creek

Rock Creek flows from forested headwaters through rural areas to its confluence with Salmon Creek. About 60 percent of the Rock Creek drainage area is forested. Less than ten percent is covered with buildings and pavement.

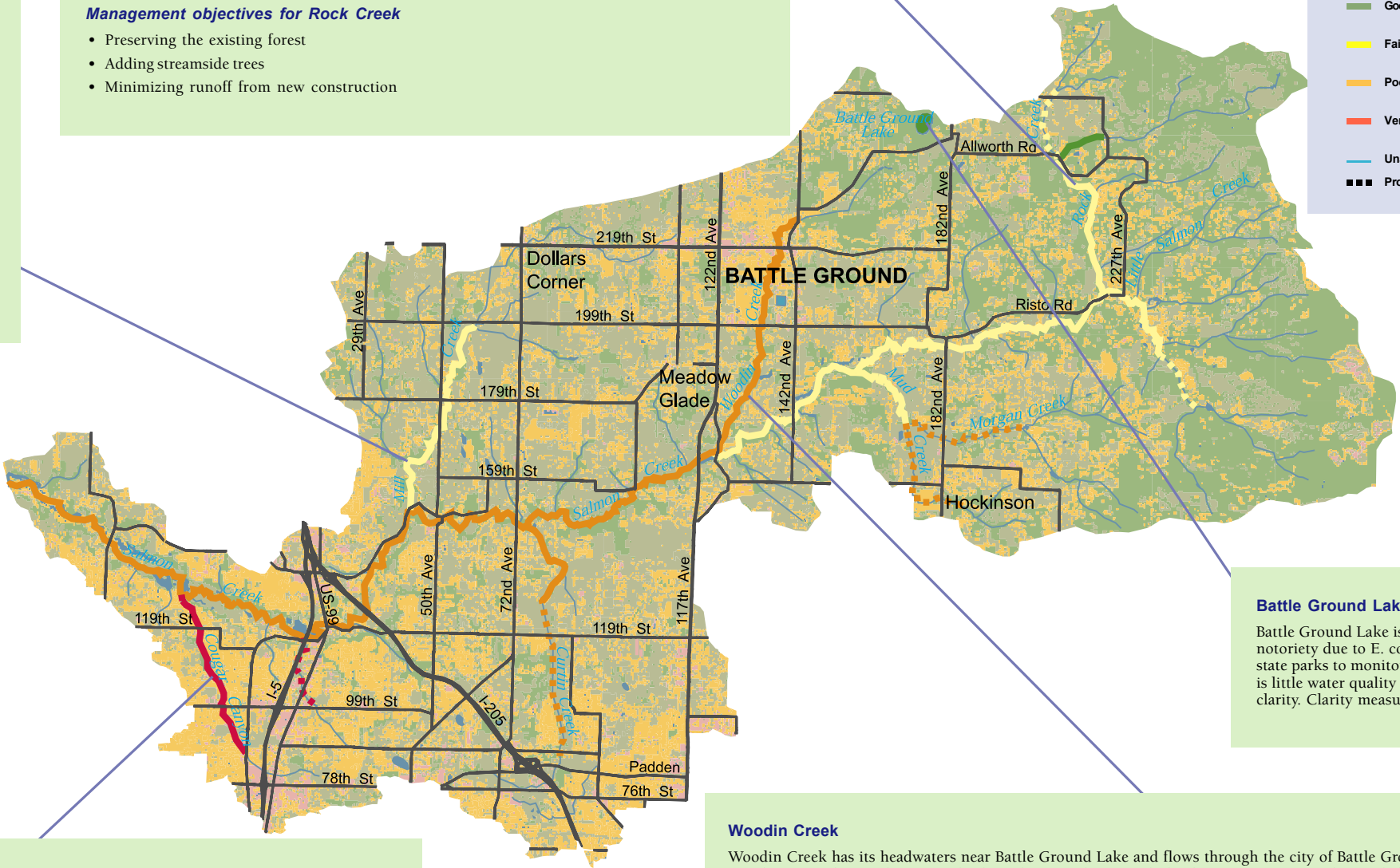
Surveys of streambed insects show that Rock Creek's health is good in forested areas and fair where land use becomes rural residential.

Management objectives for Rock Creek

- Preserving the existing forest
- Adding streamside trees
- Minimizing runoff from new construction

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Stream Health 2003

Stream Health Ratings	Description	Land Cover Key
Excellent	Pristine, superior, or unsurpassed condition; minimal human disturbance	Forest
Good	Healthy enough to support aquatic life and recreation	Grass/Shrubs
Fair	Degraded but may support aquatic life and recreation	Residential/Recently cleared land
Poor	Inferior health, poorly suited for aquatic life and recreation	Commercial/Industrial
Very Poor	Severely degraded health; unsuitable for aquatic life or recreation	
Unassessed	No data collected	
Probable	Predicted stream health	



Battle Ground Lake

Battle Ground Lake is an isolated pond surrounded by forested parkland. It gained notoriety due to E. coli problems several years ago. The Health Department now requires state parks to monitor the lake and the problem appears to have ended. Otherwise, there is little water quality test data for Battle Ground Lake other than measurements of lake clarity. Clarity measurements are sufficient to rate the lake as in good health.

Cougar Creek

Cougar Creek drains north to Salmon Creek from its headwaters along NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street in the Hazel Dell area, north of Vancouver. The creek runs through a mix of commercial, residential, and a small amount of agricultural land. Several major transportation corridors — I-5, Highway 99, Hazel Dell Avenue, and NE 99<sup>th</sup> Street — cross Cougar Creek. Upstream of Hazel Dell Avenue, most of Cougar Creek is in drainage ditches, except where it is piped under commercial areas along Highway 99 and under I-5. Below Hazel Dell Avenue, the channel flows through forested canyons. Just before flowing into Salmon Creek, the stream falls over a series of small waterfalls. A well-used trail provides access to the creek below NE 119<sup>th</sup> Street.

Cougar Creek is in poor to very poor health.

Management objectives for Cougar Creek

- Finding and removing fecal bacteria sources
- Retaining and adding streamside plants and trees
- Reducing runoff by disconnecting roof drains from storm sewer and using splash blocks

Woodin Creek

Woodin Creek has its headwaters near Battle Ground Lake and flows through the city of Battle Ground, then south to Salmon Creek near the SR 503 bridge. Above Battle Ground, the drainage area is mainly wooded residential lots. Below Battle Ground, the basin is largely rural homes on large lots. Overall, the Woodin Creek drainage area is about one-third forest, one-third grass fields and shrubs, and one-third urban.

Below Battle Ground, stream monitoring shows that Woodin Creek is in poor health. Above Battle Ground, where the drainage area is forested, the stream may be in better condition. Much of the creek, from Battle Ground to Salmon Creek, lacks streamside trees to provide shade and habitat.

Woodin Creek is likely to remain in its current poor condition or degrade as urban development continues in the Battle Ground area.

Management objectives for Woodin Creek

- Finding and removing bacteria sources
- Adding streamside trees
- Minimizing the runoff from development projects
- Retaining forests and reforesting unused fields and pastures